tea to be sold in packet form through retail outlets in important Centres in the country at a price of about Rs. 40/- per kg. plus local taxes.

(iii) Producers have been asked to maximise their offerings of tea in all the auction centres.

(iv) A Committee headed by the Special Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce meets at least once a month to monitor tea prices and take corrective measures.

(v) Government also review frequently the price situation of commodities including tea.

Electroal Reforms

412. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the Election Commission/various political parties for electoral reforms; and

(b) what is Government's reaction to the various recommendations/ suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) A number of suggestions for electoral reforms have been received from time to time from several sources including the Election Commission/Political Parties. These suggestions were placed before the Conference of Political Parties convened by the Prime Minister on 9th January. 1990. (Statement) *(See below)*

(b) In pursuance of the decision taken in the said Conference a Committee consisting of representatives of Political Parties and other eminment persons was appointed to examine the entire gamut of Electoral Reforms. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the following four Bills have been introduced in the Budget Session of Parliament:—

1. The Constitution (Seventieth Amendment) Bill 1990

2. The Constitution (Seventy-first Amendment) Bill, 1990

3. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990

4. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Bill, 1990.

Statement

1. Combating nexus between money, mafia and politicians.

2. Public financing of elections.

3. Compulsory maintenance of accounts by political parties and their audit by an agency nominated by the Election Commission; framing of rules/ By-laws for operation of Political Parties—non adherence resulting in forfeiture of registration.

4. Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner in consultation with the opposition; Banning C.E.C. and other Election Commissioners to accept any office after their term is over; Consultation with CEC in the appointment of other Election Commissioners.

5. Independent Secretariat of the Election Commission.

6. Expenses on Secretariat to be a charged Expenditure.

7. Booth capturing; Disqualifying a candidate on whose behalf booth capturing is attempted.

8. Multi-purpose photo Identity cards.

9. Expeditious disposal of Election Disputes.

10. Holding bye-elections in time.

11. Fresh Delimitation.

12. Rotation of reserved seats.

13. Banning of Legislators to hold elective office at district or lower levels.

14. Improvement in Anti-Defection Law.

15. Elimination of non-serious candidates.

16. Election not to be countermanded in case of death of an independent candidate.

17. Contesting of Election to be restricted to two constituencies.

18. Reduction in the age limit for being chosen as M.P./M.L.A./M.L.C.

19. Reservation for women in LOK Sabha and Legislative Assemblies.

20. Statutory backing for provisions of the Model Code.

21. Statutory backing for Observers of the Election Commission.

22. Powers of Election Commission for ordering re-poll in cases of large scale coercion of voters and violation of the specific directions of the Commission for fair poll.

23. Proportional Representation-List System.

24. Use of Official Machinery.

Exhibitions Organised by Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Ltd. in Different Countries

413. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the exhibitions organised by the Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Ltd. in different countries during the last three years;

(b) what amount of money was spent in organising these exhibitions; and

(c) how much money was earned by organising these exhibitions during the above period, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Statement is attached. [*See* appendix CLV, Annexure No. 11]

Government Directive to cut down Expenditure

414. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the Central Ministries to cut down their expenditure by 10 per cent;

(b) if so, what is the total expenditure is proposed to be cut down by 10 per cent and what is the saving estimated thereby;

(c) what is the basis on which the savings figures has been arrived at;

(d) whether with the imposition of 10 per cent cut in expenditure, some on-going projects and the projects proposed to be taken up by the various Ministries are likely to be delayed; and

(e) if so, how do Government think that by delaying the on-going projects and those proposed to be taken up would check the inflationary trends?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (e) A review of proposals, for anticipated additional expenditure indicates that a cut of 10% in the budget of all Ministries may be necessary to contain the budgetary deficit. The Ministries have accordingly been asked to locate savings within their budget to match the supplementaries sought for by them. While identifying the areas of likely savings the Ministries are free to prioritise their schemes/projects and reduce expenditure on low priority and inessential items.

Recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission

415. SHRI S.B. CHAVAN:
SHRI JAGESH DESAI:
SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had requested the Chief Ministers and State Governments to accept the recommendations made by the Ninth Finance Commission;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the State Governments have complained for not getting a fair deal; if